

FASTCORE PHOTOS



ISSUE #2

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Hello all,

Looks like you're back again! My first issue was an epic 2010 recap of pictures issue. This issue is quite a bit different... this one turns out to be a collection of show reviews I wrote for Maximum Rock'N'Roll's website for a column called "Wow, What A Show." I'd like to thank Paul, the web coordinator, and all the lovely people at MRR. After the show reviews are photos I've taken that didn't make it onto MRR's website. Another big thanks goes to Kent and Ebullition. I never thought I'd do anything but give away issue #1 to friends and sell a dozen out of my webstore, so thank you. The last and most major thank you goes to Jace Kuhn, who did the entire layout front to back for this zine. Totally an awesome dude.

Let me end with a generic punk aphorism: go out there and book a show, start a band, videotape a band, take pictures... do something other than lying in front of the television and wasting your life in the stupidest damn ways. Ride a bike, have some fun, when you're done having fun.. write your own zine and send it to me!

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12/11/2010 - DOUBLE NEGATIVE, DEVOUR, WITH SURPRISE GUESTS CORROSION OF CONFORMITY

A secret show!

Well, not really a secret show, but a secret band playing an all-ages house show. The show was billed as Double Negative and friends. I would draw this out and make it nice and mysterious but I'm pretty sure the reason you're reading this is because their name is in the title of this. Corrosion of Conformity was indeed slated to play a low-key house show with Double Negative and Devour. Holy shit. When I saw COC play two months ago at King's, it was packed, cost me \$12, and everyone stood around while the band played on stage. Tonight had none of these expensive, drab, or impersonal elements.

I showed up at a time I thought was going to be a little late, half on purpose and half be-

cause my record label work is neverending (like the story... nah nah nah, nah nah nah, nah nah nah).

Turns out that I arrived right on time for DOUBLE NEGATIVE to be loading gear into the dank basement of Dregg's Grotto, and in little time they were pounding out fast blasts left and right. There was one brand new song, I later found out is titled "Do the Writhe," which was a slower jam that I liked a lot. They belted out about four other new songs, newer than the Daydreamnation LP. Good quality set, people were singing along to the older stuff. I thought Kevin was pouring Four Loko on himself at one point but then realized it was just water from a SIGG bottle. Overall solid set. -/- doesn't have off nights.



DOUBLE NEGATIVE

Next was CORROSION OF CONFORMITY, playing second just in case cops came to the house. The band is now back to their Animosity-era three-piece lineup, which consists of Woody, Mike, and Reed. Their set is a little hazy in my brain since I was somehow simultaneously taking pictures, recording HD video with my fancy new cellphone, and recording audio. Unfortunately the audio didn't record for unknown reasons. Things I did pick out: perpetual raging out, killer hair whips by Sir Mullin while drumming (which in turn whipped me when I moved from the front row to

the back of the room), and dudes from Double Negative with huge smiles on their faces. Yes, they played Technocracy."

After their set, since I was right behind their drummer, I chatted with him for a second. I assume people who have been in bands forever... aren't exactly jerks but are kind of weird when you compliment them. I patted him on the back and said they sounded great and that I had seen them previously. I was greeted with some fancy handshake work and kind words back. Later on I said a similar positive remark to their guitarist as his arms were full of equipment and he promptly stopped and was super excited as well. Another two notes here: (1) they played a free/donations suggested house show, and (2) they didn't set up merch. So all this compounded on me thinking these guys are just... well, there isn't a better word for this, but they are sweethearts. Sure, they didn't have to drive too far, as they live in the nearby areas, but none of the hype or 28 years of being a band has left these guys greedy or full of themselves.

Upon telling my friend Hank that I was probably going to write this up, he told me that any good show review includes quotes from the night. So this quote of the night is per Hank Williams (yes, that's my friend's real name!) quoting someone else at the show who said, "This show is like a colostomy bag of mayhem."

DEVOUR went on last. The place thinned out a bit, not in a bad way but in the perfect-amount-of-people type of way. I think they were having mic problems because at some point I real-

local Raleigh house shows, this definitely took the cake for 2010. I don't imagine having the chance to see one of the founding crossover bands in such an intimate setting again.



CORROSION OF CONFORMITY

ized I couldn't hear any of Cody's vocals. Mic issues seem to be a curse at Raleigh house shows. Another side note: the soundboard they were using said "Wiley PTA" on the side. Up until then it was sounding awesome... I hope we didn't kill some poor school's sound system.

Devour held their own after following a crushing set from COC. Scathing, disjointed, dystopian psycho-blather. Notes of interest: Daniel did some cool delay-pedal guitar loops between songs, and Dave was wearing a really cute argyle mock turtleneck sweater.

I'll leave you abruptly with this, this year has been a great year for music for me. As far as



CORROSION OF CONFORMITY



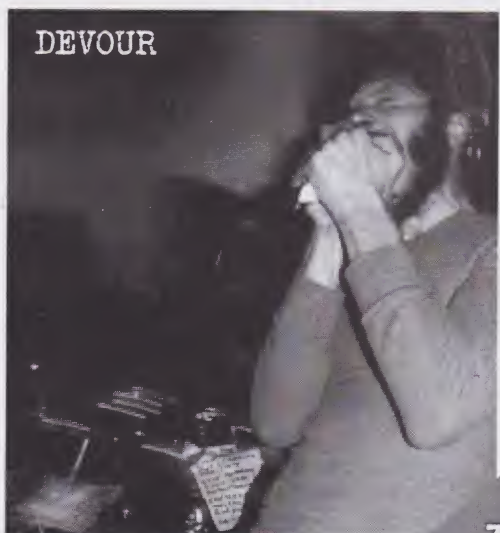
DEVOUR



CORROSION OF CONFORMITY



DOUBLE NEGATIVE



DEVOUR

ACID REFLUX



11/13/2010 - BURMA, KAKKA HÄTÄ 77, ACID REFLUX

The first cold snap hit hard in November, well as cold as it will get randomly around then in North Carolina. I got sick as hell for a few weeks and hardly went out around that time. One exception was a show on the 13th that I had been looking forward to for quite some time. I'll admit to being lame and I was not actually familiar with the band from Finland. I had seen their name before because it is proudly displayed on the front of a MRR that lives in my bathroom. Any-

who, I had managed to see Acid Reflux a town over about nine months ago and was really excited about seeing them again. I really like bands with little to no internet presence. So on to the actual show...

KAKKA-HÄTÄ 77 played a solid set. Very clean and snotty punk. People were getting into it, and I was having fun and taking pictures with my ADHD-addled brain. Next up was ACID REFLUX. I talked to them after the show



BURMA

KAKKA HÄTÄ 77



and found out that this was their last tour as a band! So this was my second and last time to see them play. Everyone raged extraordinarily hard for them and I was pretty surprised at the number of people who knew their lyrics and were shouting along. Ira, who booked the show and put it on at his house, was going insanely nuts the entire time and I couldn't help but laugh at the faces he was making (see the top picture on the opposite page for proof). Sparklers were affixed to their guitar while playing for some reason. The band must have stopped through South of the Border. After Acid Reflux played, the place emptied out before the last band. Unfortunately, but I think the reason this happened was the fact that the last band was supposed to be a surprise band and all the out of

town bands had already played. So next and last up was BURMA. They are a group of younger kids who were X'ed up and seem to play a sort of hybrid Converge/Infest style. The mic (happened to be my mic) got decimated during the Acid Reflux set so Matt just ran around stomping and screaming as loud as he could. He somehow punched his own face so hard he was bleeding at the end of their set. Drumming was on point. The night concluded with Acid Reflux running around shooting off fireworks and I think they all antiqued each other's faces with confectionery sugar. All I was thinking at this point of the night was that I had to get out of here before I had to put up a rowdy band at my house, and that I actually had a really great night full of some varying styles of music. Distort Raleigh!

ACID REFLUX



9/18/2010 - OLD PAINLESS, BUY THE STEAK, THIEVES,
AND CHEST PAIN



Since this show was about three months ago, a lot of the nuances have melted out of my brain. That being said, I'm going to keep this short and sweet. This was a surprisingly good show, full of some bands you probably have never heard of (and at the time I had yet to hear). So here is what went down in the dingy basement of Dregg's Grotto in Raleigh on September 18 of 2010.

The first band to play was OLD PAINLESS. Their first show ever was the night before, when they played in Greensboro at Legitimate Business and opened for Nails. Let me say, holy crap, what a second show! Rewind to a couple months ago. I'm friends with their drummer Rodney and we were eating at Chubby's Tacos. He was telling me about the new band he just started with Josh Dobey, Rich Lombardi (from Cloacal Kiss and The Sawtooth Grin), and Alex Taylor (from Stripmines). He dropped the word grindcore on me and my heart sank a little bit.

I'm a fervent lover of grindcore, but any time I've heard that genre referenced in NC, it just means watered down Discordance Axis style music to the point it is just sped up metalcore. This was definitely not the case. Very technical grindy parts, lots of of super fast blasts (Rodney is a world class drummer), and I really enjoyed Rich's stage presence.

After Old Painless, BUY THE STEAK took the stage (well, took the basement). I had just started to see these folks come out to shows so it was cool to see their band. Female-fronted thrash metal from Garner, North Carolina. Fun band. I remembered thinking their guitar player, Logan Holloway, looked like an old man in the hat he was wearing. Unfortunately, I think you can add this band to the list of short-lived, defunct bands from the area.

Next was an awesome surprise set by THIEVES, who wasn't slated to play this show. I'm pretty sure

BUY THE STEAK





this only happened because my roommate kept chanting for them to play since all the guys happen to be at the show, so they borrowed equipment and played a ripping quick set. Their bass player Ben loves to do quirky things at every show he plays... I remember him wearing a full 80's workout getup, he wore a suit once, and I think he even wore a bear costume at one show. Since it wasn't scripted, I think he decided to sit down in the corner and played bass while sitting Indian style against the wall to add to his repertoire. On to how they sounded: They sounded awesome. Super fast and thrashy hardcore. Rodney (yeah, the same one who drums for Old Painless also sings for Thieves) got up in my face a lot while I was taking pictures. Thieves was definitely ON this night.

to me... much like my thoughts on grindcore above, but I had high hopes because they are from Texas. I had corresponded with Matt from the band a few times but had somehow never heard them and couldn't find any mu-

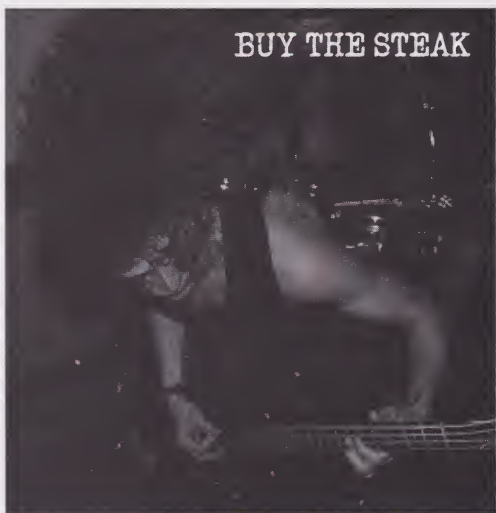


CHEST PAIN

Last to play was CHEST PAIN. All I knew beforehand is that they were a powerviolence band. That could mean a number of things

sic online. I was very positively surprised with their style of visceral and blasting powerviolence. Any band who has a shirtless singer with a gauntlet on is good by me. I also remember the guitar player bending backwards so much that he looked like he was about to snap his back and Matt ended up chomping his bass strings at the very end. Quite a night for a show when I didn't know what to expect.

BUY THE STEAK



CHEST PAIN



MOSHERS



12/30/2010 - NATURAL LAW, DYSTROPHY, TRAPPER, DETHRONED EMPORER, BURMA

Perfect timing for a slightly out of town show... I had Friday off for New Year's so a show an hour away wasn't a stretch. This was originally going to be in a Raleigh basement but due to some roommate issues, it got moved to a Greensboro show space called CFBG. Word is that the place is a dance studio, and it had some cool artwork up. Appears to be a business where the owner is nice enough to let bands come play.

Technical difficulties caused a short delay. I think a PA needed to be brought or found or set up. A large bass cab was then set up for vocals. BURMA went on shortly after. They share members across Raleigh and Greensboro so they are a perfect band to have already been booked to play in Raleigh and to also play this night in another town.

BURMA





BURMA

They pumped out some jams to a room of smiling faces. I think I must have been spoiled by Matt's antics at their last show when he went off... tonight he wasn't as energized and bloody, although a guitar was swung fairly close to his head a few times. There were shouts for a Minor Threat cover but alas no cover. The great thing about Minor Threat is the fact that is really hard to ruin their songs, they are both solid and sloppy, so I always enjoy seeing one covered.

Following Burma was DYSTROPHY. I was really hoping this

was the Cali thrash punk band who put out We're Nice Kids, but it turns out this particular Dystrophy still rules and also contains my friend Matt Thompson... quite a pleasant surprise. This Dystrophy is a NJ area death metal band. Lots of riffage which had quite a few people jumping around and getting wild. They played a solid long set and even covered a Death song.

This next band I had never heard of before, but based on their look, I was highly interested. DETHRONED EMPORER took stage (took floor). The guest vocalist during the Dystrophy set is on drums and their singer as the guy I noticed wearing a Cryptic Slaughter



TRAPPER

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NATURAL LAW

vocalist during the Dystrophy set is on drums and their singer as the guy I noticed wearing a Cryptic Slaughter jacket earlier in the night. His guitar setup was super loud and crunchy on sound check. Later on I noticed

he has two instrument cables coming out of his guitar and each cable was connected to a different head connected to the same stack. I talked to him later as I was super curious and he gave me an overly technical answer that I forget most of, but I know he was running each pickup to a different amp head

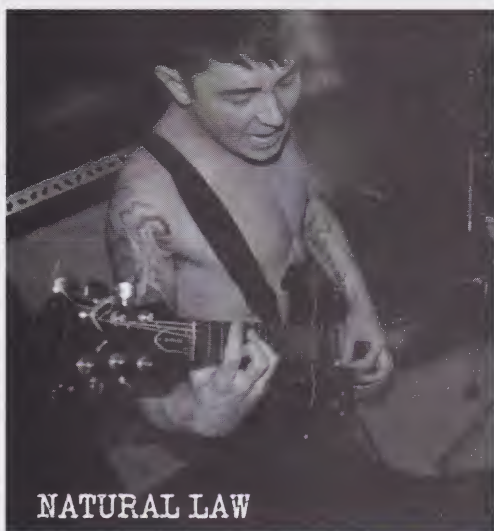


NATURAL LAW

and he mentioned taking off his volume pot and running 1Q out to overdrive the whole rig, I believe. The sound of this two-piece death metal band was more

shut up about their Slump EP, so I was excited to see them. The band shares members with Black Kites and seems to be a scattered New England/DC crowd. I later found out that their bass player lives with two members of Death-rats. The band played non-stop hardcore jams that definitely gives a nod to Double Negative but with its own originality. You really should do yourself a favor and track down their demo or 7". Definitely worth a listen!

BURMA



NATURAL LAW



DETHRONED EMPORER



DETHRONED EMPORER



3/12/2011 - DROPDEAD, MAGRUDERGRIND, WASTED TIME, COUGH, ILSA

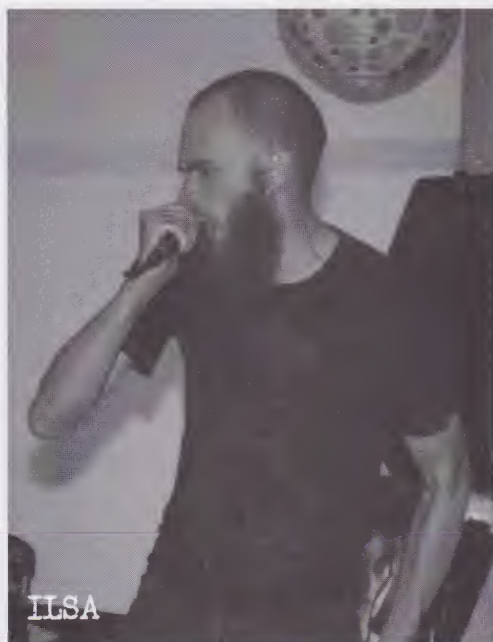
The almighty Providence grind/violence band DROPDEAD hasn't played a show in DC in thirteen years! Well, all that changed when the band drove all the way down just to play DC and turn around and go back on with their normal lives.

I'm not sure if anyone likes a show review to be more like a journal or not but I think it makes it more interesting, and I'm the one writing here so you'll have to deal with it for now. The kids of Burma, a local Raleigh band, were nice enough to let me tag along with them on the way up to the show. Had an entertaining ride up. We then caught up with Greg from Deathrats (sorry this seems to be shout-out heaven right here), who was nice enough to show us around town for an hour or two before the show. We went to Smash and Crooked Beat Records,

and then by Sticky Fingers bakery so that I could get a killer vegan cinnamon bun and some coffee to get me amped up for the night (and so that I wouldn't crash early because I woke up at 9 a.m.) As we roll back to the house, Greg starts to flip out as there is a van parked in front of the house. He looks over at me and says something to the extent of, "Please don't let me flip out - Dropdead is over at my house now." Awesome nice folks. I had met Ben a few times before as he has toured down with bands and when Dropdead played Richmond for Best Friends Day a few years ago. A quick aside: When they played Richmond it was one of the most insane house shows I've ever been to. The show got moved from a venue to a house, the house's basement ceiling got ripped down during their set and I was clinging to the water heater for

protection.

Fast forward to actual show time. The show was at a church a few blocks from Greg's house and even fewer blocks from Sticky Fingers, where we had gotten some eats earlier in the day. Really awesome setup for shows. ILSA went on first. This is the only band I had no idea about before seeing them. Pretty good down-tuned sludge/doom. I noticed one person in that band who I recognized but couldn't place it at all. I later realized he was in a two-younger-kid grindcore band I had seen maybe four years ago in Baltimore called Wyld Stallyns. I had always wondered what happened to people from that band so was excited to make that connection. Aptly, COUGH followed. Sludge jams, back-to-back. I saw the band five years ago and the singer was too obliterated to stand up, so the new configuration of the band was a huge improvement. I tried my darndest to get pictures of the band to where they didn't have hair



splaying in their faces but didn't have much luck. I know COUGH is on tour with MAGRUD-ERGRIND and I think that is a perfect combination... a crawling slow band and a ripping fast seem to compliment each other perfectly.

Next to play was WASTED TIME.



WASTED TIME



The band rips every time. Slightly different than any band playing the night, but was somehow a perfect transition between the sludge and grind bands. I was standing at oh so the wrong place during their set and was about to get my camera smashed by a stagedive when the guy realized what I had in

my hand and made a feline-esque leap right over my head. Later in the set I turned around and saw three different people holding their noses, people were in the pit crowd killing and freaking out really hard for the band. Later in the night I had the pleasure of meeting Mark and Alex from the band for the first time, and got to say hey to the lovely Brandon as well.

I was stoked to see that it was early, only about 10:30 or so, before MAGRUDERGRIND goes on. Their band is definitely one of my favorite bands... solid songs as well as solid guys. Some bands have just one guy you can approach about the band, but each member of this band is very approachable and has something quite interesting and different to say. Good personality both in the music and the people, you could say. Back to the music part of it, they delivered a helping of grindcore mayhem inside that church. Lots of stage-

dives and smiling faces. Last was the cherry on top of an already awesome show, DROP-DEAD... lords of grindcore and purveyors of animal rights. During the whole set, people were clamoring to share the mic with Bob as he was belting out song after song. I really don't even know what to say that gives them justice. I felt kind of awkward as I was the only person on stage during their set but I had a bird's eye



MAGRUDERGRIND



DROPDEAD



DROPDEAD

view of the maniacs in the pit. I saw even more people holding their noses as if each person in the place was systematically punched squarely in the nose. I think they did their thirteen-year absence justice.

I normally focus on the good parts of a show. There unfortunately were a few fights, mainly near the end of the night. Both Michelle from Sick Fix and Greg seemed to do a good job keeping things under control. I thought Bobby Egger from Headcount Records was about to jump in and break up one fight. I'm an outsider to things that go on in DC so I hope nothing was more serious than someone got hit wrong in the mosh pit or something.

My night concluded back at a house with DROPDEAD, eating the biggest piece of vegan pizza I have ever seen. Amazing show, good town, good trip, awesome friends. Thanks to Chris Moore for putting the show on.



MAGRUDERGRIND

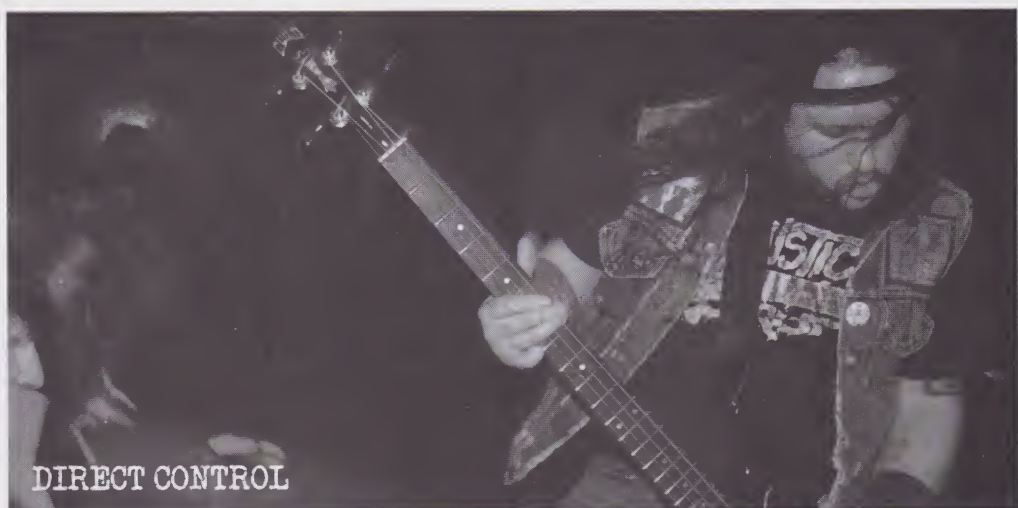
PHOTOS



BIG EYES



LIBYANS



DIRECT CONTROL



SHARDS



SHARDS



DIRECT CONTROL



LOGIC PROBLEM



LOGIC PROBLEM



MAN WILL DESTROY HIMSELF



BACKSLIDER



BACKSLIDER



LEATHER





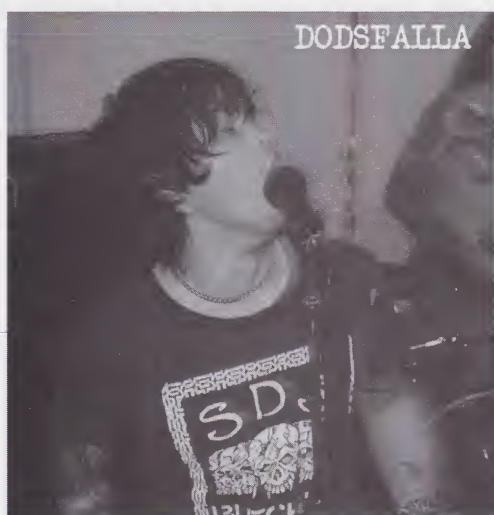
BIG EYES



NIMBUS TERRIFIX



MAN WILL DESTROY HIMSELF





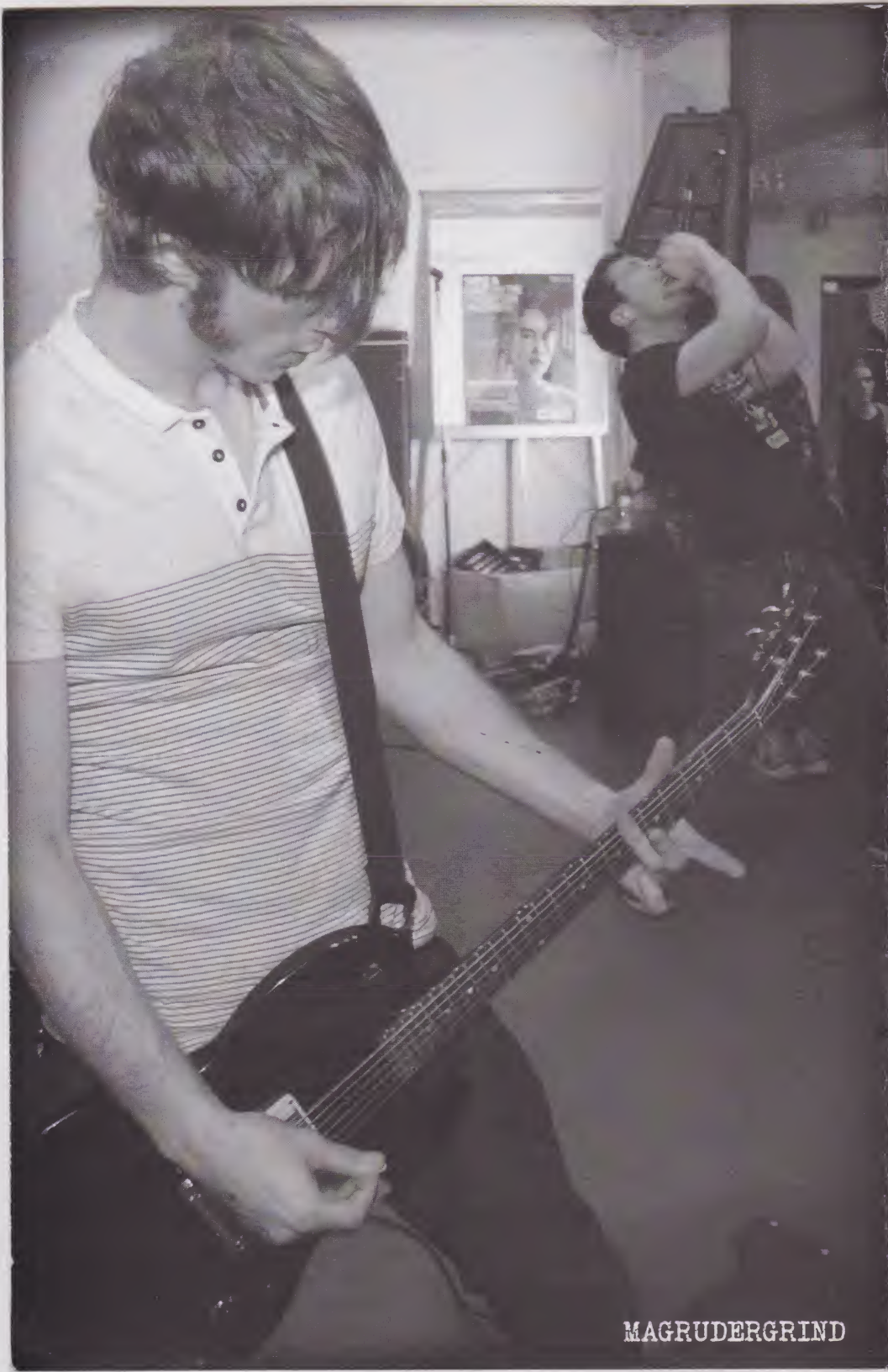
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MAGRUDERGRIND